

Members

Rep. James Bottorff, Chairperson
Rep. Denny Oxley
Rep. Markt Lytle
Rep. William Friend
Rep. Jack Lutz
Rep. Michael Smith
Sen. Potch Wheeler, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Johnny Nugent
Sen. John Waterman
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Richard Young
Sen. Larry Lutz



WATER RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Irma Reinumagi, Attorney for the Committee
John Parkey, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 2-5-25

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 23, 2002
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. James Bottorff, Chairperson; Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep. William Friend; Rep. Jack Lutz; Rep. Michael Smith; Sen. Potch Wheeler, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. John Waterman; Sen. James Lewis; Sen. Larry Lutz.

Members Absent: Rep. Denny Oxley; Sen. Johnny Nugent; Sen. Richard Young.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and called upon Vince Griffin, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, for comments concerning low flow issues. Mr. Griffin explained that the Chamber sees the establishment of a water shortage task force, which could set out a reasonable priority of use schedule for water users, as an important issue for Indiana businesses. Glenn Pratt, Sierra Club, stressed that the issue of a water shortage task force needed to move forward.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

The Committee discussed whether to approve a resolution calling for the establishment of a water shortage task force (attachment A) or a bill that would establish the task force (attachment B). The discussion did not result in a consensus, so neither was recommended. The Chairperson encouraged individual members of the Committee to proceed with either a bill or a resolution if they wished.

The Committee then considered various drafts that would provide funding for Clean Water Indiana. Sen. Wheeler presented a draft that Rep. Friend had prepared that would establish a bottled water excise tax of \$0.02 per liter on sales of bottled water, with the revenue being deposited in the Clean Water Indiana fund (attachment C). Following Committee discussion, the Chairperson called for audience comments concerning the draft.

Sherm Bryant, Kosciuscko County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), pointed out the importance of clean water and air to recreation and tourism, and the need for dedicated funding for the Clean Water Indiana program.

Gary Thom, Kosciuscko County SWCD, also stressed the need for a dedicated funding source for Clean Water Indiana, and suggested that the tax on bottled water could be viewed as a user fee that could be the source of dedicated funding.

Mr. Pratt stated that the Clean Water Indiana fund provides support for the agricultural community, and that dedicated funding can be used to match federal funds.

Bob Edelman, Marion County SWCD, pointed out that while Clean Water Indiana is often used to address nonpoint source pollution in agricultural areas, cities and towns are sources of the pollution as well, and that Clean Water Indiana is also an urban program.

Lynn Dennis, Nature Conservancy, expressed general support for a dedicated funding source for Clean Water Indiana and other preservation programs. She then presented a draft (attachment D) that Rep. Smith had prepared that would increase the disposal fee for certain types of solid waste, with the revenue from the increase going to fund various programs, including Clean Water Indiana. The bill would also establish a payment in lieu of property taxes program for land owned or leased by the Department of Natural Resources.

Following Committee discussion, the Chairperson called for the adoption of the sense of the Committee, to be included in the final report, that the Committee approved the concept of a tax on bottled water, but felt details of the tax, including whether it should be collected at the distributor level rather than the retail, needed to be worked out. Money from the tax could provide a dedicated funding source for Clean Water Indiana. The sense of the Committee was approved by voice vote, as was the final report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.